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Remarks

Claims 1-17 were pending in the application. Claims 1-17 were rejected. No claims were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, claim 2 is amended, and claims 18-20 are added. No new matter is presented.

Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate the courtesy of an in-person interview March 6, 2007 between the undersigned and Examiners Chuka C. Ndubizu and Kenneth Rinehart. The claim elements were reviewed relative to the specification and drawings to provide an understanding of the invention. No specific art was discussed and no agreement reached.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 were rejected as being anticipated by Hunter, Jr. (US5494004).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The rejection lacked the required analysis. Claim 1 is written in means-plus-function language under 35 U.S.C. 112(6). No appropriate 112(6) claim interpretation analysis was made.

Regarding claim 2, elements 293 and 291 of Hunter, Jr. were asserted as the external tube bundles. However, these are merely cooling passageways in the wall of the conduit. These are not external tube bundles. Claim 2 has been amended for further clarification. If this is believed insufficient, a telephonic interview is requested to discuss appropriate language.

Regarding claim 7, FIG. 7 was cited. However, that figure involves a stowed configuration when not in use and, thus, lacks the claimed positioning of claim 1.

Regarding claim 8, the claimed majority in the context of intervening claim 7 is clearly not shown.

Regarding claim 9, elements 21 and 31 were asserted. There is no indication that these are assembled end-to-end.

Apparently regarding claims 10 and 11, elements 181 and 183 were respectively asserted as the braces and clamps. Elements 181 are I-beams and elements 183 are cross-beams. Col. 4, lines 3&4. Clearly, even via a contorted and unreasonable interpretation, the latter are not clamps. The former stops short of spanning the length of the identified segment 21. Furthermore,

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it has not been articulated how these are external.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter, Jr. in view of Chappell (US3216046). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Chappell discloses a long travel telescopic soot blower. This is a dissimilar construction from Hunter, Jr. There is no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would attempt any combination. A circular and conclusory motivation was cited "to modify Hunter's cleaning apparatus to include all the limitations taught by Chappell and recited above in order to provide an improved a [sic] cleaning apparatus of the long retracting type, which is durable in operation, versatile in use and economical to manufacture as taught by Chappell (column 3 line 4-7)."

Office action, page 4, final paragraph. All that motivation would teach would be to use Chappell instead of Hunter, Jr. Furthermore, the motivation is clearly improper as Chappell substantially predates Hunter, Jr. Accordingly, Hunter, Jr. itself teaches away from any combination.

Furthermore, the basic nature of Hunter, Jr. is a hingedly articulating cannon-like device. Any change to a telescoping device would also be expected to eliminate the other aspects of a hinged device and therefore defeat the citation of Hunter, Jr. for the basic portions of the claims for which it is cited.

Specifically, elements 92 and 68 were asserted as external braces. These respectively are a trolley 92 and roller arms 68 of a carriage 18. By what token are these braces? What is the asserted non-right and non-zero angle of claim 12? An appropriate mark-up of a figure of Chappell is required to permit Applicants to respond.

Elements 28 were asserted as being spring hangers, more particularly, constant load hangers. These, however, are roller brackets. No spring hanger, more particularly, constant load hanger, more particularly, one with the snubber(s) of claim 6 are disclosed.

Generally, there is no proper obviousness analysis. For example, none of the *Graham v. John Deere* factors were analyzed. No other sufficient reason was articulated for the combination. As is noted above, the asserted motivation is clearly insufficient. There is no indication that one of ordinary skill in the art would see the primary reference, Hunter, Jr., as deficient in an area for which solution would be found in Chappell. There is no articulation of

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precisely how the modification would be made to the primary reference (e.g., without destroying various functionalities thereof).

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter, Jr. in view of Menegaz et al. (US4095935). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Menegaz et al. was asserted as disclosing "spring hangers 144 (with spring 150) for a catalytic tube..." Office action, page 5, third paragraph. Subsequent references improperly identify element 34 as a combustion tube. Element 34 is not a cleaning apparatus. Element 34a was asserted as a snubber. However, this is a flange.

Again, there was only a conclusory motivation to selectively combine "in order to provide a support capable of accommodating expansion due to large thermal effects..." Office action, page 5, final paragraph. Again, there is no proper obviousness analysis (e.g., under *Graham v. John Deere*). Again, there is no discussion of how this could be applied to Hunter, Jr.


Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter, Jr. in view of Chappell and further in view of Menegaz et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The rejection suffers the same deficiencies as do the two underlying rejections: Hunter, Jr. in view of Chappell; and Hunter, Jr. in view of Menegaz et al.

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Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

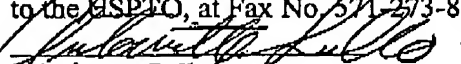
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 14th day of May, 2007 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 571-273-8300.


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